



UK "special operations" soldier died at base Iran attacked in March

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UK

The UK military has [named](#) the soldier killed in Erbil, Iraq. An American soldier also died in what the allied nations say was a "training accident". Lance Corporal James Freeman was a member of the Royal Anglian regiment. Iranian drones hit the base in March 2026.

Freeman was [a member](#) of 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. The battalion is part of the new army [Special Operations Brigade](#). The British Army website [describes](#) the unit as:

the fighting formation of the Land Special Operations Force (LSOF) and is equipped with Robotics and Autonomous Systems.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) posted on X:

It is with great sadness that we confirm the death of Lance Corporal James Freeman, who died on 31 May following a tragic accident during routine military training activity whilst deployed on Operation SHADER, Iraq. pic.twitter.com/2pGkHTja64

" Ministry of Defence 🇬🇧 (@DefenceHQ) [June 3, 2026](#)

The US Army has not yet named the American soldier killed:

pic.twitter.com/BZwCWnWw3I

US Army Central & Third Army (@usarmycentral) [June 1, 2026](#)

Drop Site News [reported](#) that Erbil province was hit by Iranian fire on the day of the deaths:

Iran's IRGC launched ballistic missile strikes against Iranian Kurdish opposition group bases in Erbil Province on the same day:

At 5:54 a.m., a missile struck the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) headquarters in Chamshar near Darashakran, northwest of Erbil

At 10:40 p.m., two missiles struck a Kurdistan Toilers Party (Komala) base in the Alana Valley

The outlet [said](#):

The Institute for the Study of War said the IRGC launched the strikes in retaliation for a Kurdish opposition attack on a militia border guard unit in Chaldran County on May 29.

[Adding](#)

It is not clear whether the training accident and the Iranian strikes have any connection.

Base housing UK military was struck by Iran in March

Iran struck the Erbil base in March with no reported casualties. *Middle East Eye* [said](#) on March 12:

A base in Iraq used by British troops has come under attack from Iranian drones, wounding a number of American soldiers.

British air-defence troops destroyed two drones, but other devices evaded defences and struck an air base in Erbil, northern Iraq, on Wednesday night, defence chiefs revealed on Thursday.

UK forces are in Iraq as part of [Operation Shader](#). Shader trains local forces and carries out operations against the remnants of ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria. The forces have come under fire due to the illegal US-Israeli assault on Iran. The American [war of choice](#) has seen Iran strike US-aligned forces in a region and caused a major energy crisis.

Featured image via Marco Di Lauro/Getty Images

By [Joe Glenton](#)

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